

Office of the General Counsel

14 April 1959

Deputy Chief, Fiscal Division

Reimbursement for travel expenses to pick up a privately owned automobile at point of debarkation - 2 months after completion of transfer

1. Your opinion is requested as to the legality of the claim presented to this office for payment by Mr. [REDACTED]

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(a) Travel Order OO/FB 134-5881, dated 29 May 1958, issued to Mr. [REDACTED], authorized the shipment of his privately owned automobile with the authority to drive to and from port, if possible.

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(b) On 14 August 1958, Mr. [REDACTED] completed his transfer from overseas [REDACTED] to Washington, D. C. On 29 October 1958, Mr. [REDACTED] elected to go to New York (port of debarkation) to pick up his automobile and drive it back to Washington, D. C.

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(c) It appears from the facts as presented in his travel order, that this did not constitute authority for a special trip to New York for the sole purpose of getting his automobile. Also, by doing this it caused the employee to be absent from his place of duty on a work day.

(d) Because of these conditions, the question is now presented as to whether or not this trip is considered as official business or as a personal trip with annual leave chargeable to the traveler.

For your information there appears to be no rulings or decisions analogous to this case. Therefore a clarification is now requested for future guidance.

2. In our memorandum of 2 April 1956 to you, this same question was presented to you under question 4(c) as follows:

"If the automobile reaches the port of debarkation at a date later than the arrival of the traveler, shall

be reimbursed the cost of returning to the port
of debarkation and driving his car to its destination?

If so, upon what basis shall this expense be allowed?"

However, in your reply of 20 June 1956, this question was not replied to.

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Attachments:

BV 11624

Travel Order No. 00/72-134-53

JLC/gma (14 April 1959)

Distribution:

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